

361.034

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: :
Harald RISTAU :
PCT/DE00/02362 : PCT Date: July 18, 2000
Serial No.: :
Filed: Concurrently Herewith :
For: VACUUM HOLDING DEVICE :
600 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10016
March 13, 2002

L. Nelson
#4/Pre Amdt. a
6-12-02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 1, insert

A1

--This application is a 371 of PCT/DE00/02362 filed July
18, -2000.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Sub B27
A2

~~Claim 3 (amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to
claim 1 wherein the connection between the vacuum chamber (5) and
the external environment has a conical, spherical or hemispherical
bearing surface (8) to accommodate the valve (9).~~